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15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 16 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 17 SAN JOSE DIVISION

19 ACER, INC., ACER AMERICA  
 20 CORPORATION and GATEWAY, INC.,

21 Plaintiffs,

22 vs.

23 TECHNOLOGY PROPERTIES  
 24 LIMITED, PATRIOT SCIENTIFIC  
 24 CORPORATION, and ALLIACENSE  
 25 LIMITED,

26 Defendants.

Case No. 5:08-cv-00877 JF

**DEFENDANTS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF  
 MOTION TO DISMISS OR, IN THE  
 ALTERNATIVE, TO TRANSFER VENUE;  
 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND  
 AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

Date: August 1, 2008  
 Time: 9:00 a.m.  
 Dept: Courtroom 3, 5th Floor  
 Before: Honorable Jeremy Fogel

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1        **I.        INTRODUCTION**

2            In their Opposition, Plaintiffs Acer, Inc., Acer America Corporation and Gateway, Inc.  
 3 (collectively, “Acer”) do not dispute that resolution of TPL’s Motion turns on a 28 U.S.C. Section  
 4 1404 transfer analysis. Specifically, resolution of the Motion turns on whether the public factors,  
 5 namely judicial economy, the risk of inconsistent judgments and third-party witness convenience  
 6 (which clearly favor transfer to the Eastern District of Texas), outweigh the private factors,  
 7 specifically party witness convenience (which Acer contends favor maintaining the action in the  
 8 Northern District of California). Even assuming Acer is correct that the private factors weigh  
 9 against transfer (which they do not), the Federal Circuit has counseled that “[c]onsideration of the  
 10 interest of justice, which includes judicial economy, ‘may be determinative to a particular transfer  
 11 motion, even if the convenience of the parties and witnesses might call for a different result.’”  
 12 *Regents of Univ. of Cal. v. Eli Lilly & Co.*, 119 F.3d 1559, 1565 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (citation  
 13 omitted). This is precisely the case here.

14            Indeed, Judge Ward’s considerable prior experience as to these patents and technology  
 15 outweighs the neutral factor of party witness convenience and therefore favors the Eastern  
 16 District of Texas as the appropriate forum. In a prior case involving the patents and technology at  
 17 issue here, Judge Ward:

- 18            •        reviewed and considered a *Markman* tutorial;
- 19            •        analyzed thousands of pages of patents and the corresponding file histories;
- 20            •        considered detailed expert declarations;
- 21            •        conducted a *Markman* hearing; and
- 22            •        issued a 31-page *Markman* order construing 33 claim terms in the patent claims.

23            In requesting that the Court disregard Judge Ward’s previous experience, Acer urges the  
 24 Court to “automatically” follow the “first-to-file” rule based on purported party witness  
 25 convenience. The Court must consider, however, the “real underlying dispute.” *Micron Tech., Inc. v. Mosaic Techs., Inc.*, 518 F.3d 897, 904 (Fed. Cir. 2008). Here, Judge Ward has significant  
 26 experience with the patents-in-suit, Plaintiffs’ key technical witnesses do not reside in California  
 27 and Acer itself has recently chosen to file complaints in the Eastern District of Texas as well as

1 the Western District of Wisconsin. Accordingly, this Court should decline Declaratory Judgment  
 2 jurisdiction and allow the parties to resolve their dispute in the Eastern District of Texas in  
 3 connection with the actions TPL has filed there, which have been assigned to Judge Ward.

4 **II. THE COURT SHOULD DECLINE DECLARATORY JUDGMENT  
 5 JURISDICTION AND DISMISS AND/OR TRANSFER THIS ACTION BECAUSE  
 6 THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS IS THE MOST SUITABLE FORUM.<sup>1</sup>**

7 The parties agree that “when the discretionary determination is presented after the filing of  
 8 an infringement action, the jurisdiction question is basically the same as a transfer action under  
 9 § 1404(a).” *Micron Techs., Inc.*, 518 F.3d at 904. Contrary to Acer’s position, however, judicial  
 10 economy may serve as a compelling basis for declining jurisdiction, even in a first-filed action.  
 11 For example, in *Cingular Wireless LLC v. Freedom Wireless, Inc.*, 2007 WL 1876377 (D. Ariz.  
 12 June 27, 2007), the court declined jurisdiction despite recognizing that subject matter jurisdiction  
 13 was present but finding the “weight of judicial economy favors adjudication in Texas.” *Id.* at \*6.  
 As discussed below, this is the case here.

14 **A. The Public Factors Strongly Favor Transferring This Case To The Eastern  
 15 District Of Texas.**

16 **1. Judge Ward Is Already Familiar With The Patents And Technology,  
 17 And It Would Be Wasteful Of Judicial Resources For A Second Court  
 18 To Learn The Same Technology.**

19 Plaintiffs do not dispute that the technology described and claimed in the Moore  
 20 Microprocessor Portfolio (“MMP”) patents at issue here is highly-technical technology relating to  
 21 high-speed computer microprocessors. The MMP portfolio includes U.S. Patent Nos. 5,440,749,  
 5,809,336, 5,784,584, 6,598,148, and 5,530,890 (the “’749, ’336, ’584, ’148, and ’890” patents,

22 <sup>1</sup> In arguing that the *Younger* abstention doctrine does not here apply (D.E. # 34, Plaintiffs’  
 23 Opposition to Motion to Dismiss or, In the Alternative, to Transfer Venue (“Opp.”) at 11), Acer  
 24 misapprehends TPL’s legal standard. TPL maintains only that a party’s motion to dismiss based  
 25 on a request to decline Declaratory Judgment jurisdiction, which is a form of abstention  
 26 regardless of where the two competing cases reside, is properly raised under Federal Rule of Civil  
 27 Procedure 12(b)(1). *See Miller Brewing Co. v. ACE U.S. Holdings, Inc.*, 391 F. Supp. 2d 735,  
 739-40 (E.D. Wis. 2005) (declining declaratory judgment jurisdiction finding “[a] motion to  
 28 dismiss or stay based on an abstention doctrine raises the question of whether a court should  
 exercise subject matter jurisdiction”); *Beres v. Village of Huntley, Illinois*, 824 F. Supp. 763, 766  
 (N.D. Ill. 1992) (“a motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Fed. R.  
 Civ. P. 12(b)(1) appears to be an appropriate method for raising the issue of abstention.”).

1 respectively). Although they claim different aspects of fundamental microprocessor technology,  
 2 these patents share virtually identical specifications and are related. (See Declaration of Jeffrey  
 3 M. Fisher In Support Of Defendant's Reply to Motion to Dismiss Or, In the Alternative, To  
 4 Transfer Venue ("Fisher Decl."), Exs. A-C (complaints attaching copies of patents).)<sup>2</sup>

5 In a highly-technical case such as this, the judge's familiarity of the issues can be  
 6 decisive: "Consideration of the interest of justice, which includes judicial economy, 'may be  
 7 determinative to a particular transfer motion, even if the convenience of the parties and witnesses  
 8 might call for a different result.'" *Eli Lilly & Co.*, 119 F.3d at 1565 (citation omitted); *see also*  
 9 *Electronics for Imaging, Inc. v. Tesseron, Ltd.* ("*EFI, Inc.*"), 2008 WL276567, at \*1 (N.D. Cal.  
 10 Jan. 29, 2008) (transferring a declaratory judgment action where "the interest of justice is the  
 11 most important consideration" despite party witness inconvenience).

12 Judge Ward has already likely spent weeks learning the highly-technical factual issues of  
 13 three of the MMP patents, namely the '336 patent, the '584 patent,<sup>3</sup> and the '148 patent. Both  
 14 sides prepared and submitted tutorials on the technology disclosed in the patents. (See D.E. # 20,  
 15 Declaration of John L. Cooper In Support of Motion to Dismiss and to Transfer ("Cooper Decl."),  
 16 Ex. B.)<sup>4</sup> Judge Ward then took on the labor-intensive task of learning the general area of  
 17 technology, as well as the patents' detailed disclosure and claim terms. He was further required  
 18 to review each of the patents' file histories and the competing expert opinions and arguments of  
 19 counsel. He considered the contested claim terms and phrases presented in each of the three  
 20 asserted patents and subsequently issued a 31-page *Markman* decision, construing 33 claim terms  
 21 in an order dated June 15, 2007. (See D.E. #20, Cooper Decl., Ex. C.)

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23 <sup>2</sup> TPL has asserted each of these patents against Acer in the proceedings it has initiated in the  
 24 Eastern District of Texas (which have been assigned to Judge Ward). (Fisher Decl., ¶ 2, 3,  
 25 Exs. A-C.) Acer has only asserted the '749, '336 and '584 patents in this action to date, although  
 26 its counsel recently informed TPL that Acer intends to seek a stipulation to amend its complaint  
 27 to add the '148 and '890 patents in this action. (See Fisher Decl., ¶ 4.)

<sup>3</sup> Contrary to Acer's assertion, the appeals process relating to the '584 patent has not yet expired.

<sup>4</sup> Tutorials are especially valuable in cases involving complex technology such as this. *See, e.g.*, *Key Pharms. v. Hercon Labs. Corp.*, 161 F.3d 709 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

28

1           Numerous courts have found that where, as here, a court has expended considerable effort  
 2 learning complex technology, transfer to that court is appropriate even if other factors weigh  
 3 against transfer. *See LG Elecs., Inc. v. Hitachi, Ltd.*, 2007 WL 4411035, at \*3 (E.D. Tex. 2007)  
 4 (transferring to the Northern District of California where “[m]uch of the work already performed  
 5 by Judge Wilken would be duplicated in this case, which would unnecessarily consume judicial  
 6 resources. Judge Wilken's familiarity with the technology and the patents-in-suit counterbalances  
 7 the expediency of this court's docket.”); *Zoltar Satellite Sys., Inc. v. LG Elecs. Mobile Comm. Co.*,  
 8 402 F. Supp. 2d 731, 735 (E.D. Tex. 2005) (“It is well established that the interest of justice is an  
 9 important factor in the § 1404(a) analysis”; transferring case to Northern District of California  
 10 where “Judge Ware's investment of time and effort with [the asserted] patents has been . . .  
 11 substantial”); *Reiffen v. Microsoft, Corp.* 104 F. Supp. 2d 48, 55 (D.D.C. 2000) (transferring to  
 12 the Northern District of California, stating: “The Honorable Vaughn R. Walker of the Northern  
 13 District has already expended substantial time and effort to become familiar with the technology  
 14 underlying the disputed patents, the prosecution of the patents, the record considered by the  
 15 Patent Office in issuing the patents, and the legal issues related to the patents' alleged validity and  
 16 infringement.”).

17           In the face of this precedent recognizing the importance of a transferee court's prior  
 18 experience, Acer offers two cases in support of its contention that a prior claim construction does  
 19 not weigh in favor of transfer. First, Acer urges that a prior claim construction in *Micron* did not  
 20 persuade the Federal Circuit that Texas was the appropriate forum. (D.E. #34, Opp. at 6) Not  
 21 only is there no discussion of a prior claim construction in the Federal Circuit's *Micron* decision,  
 22 review of the previous Texas *Mosaid* dockets reveals that none of these earlier cases before Judge  
 23 Davis had a claim construction tutorial, hearing or order. (See Fisher Decl., Exs. D, E.) Acer  
 24 next contends that in *Sony Elecs., Inc. v. Guardian Media Techs., Ltd.*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS  
 25 82636, \*8-10 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 6, 2007), the “Court denied transfer of Plaintiffs' declaratory  
 26 judgment actions even though there was a prior claim construction ruling on Defendants' patents  
 27 in a parallel litigation.” (D.E. #34, Opp. at 6.) Nowhere in the *Sony* case is there any mention of  
 28 a prior claim construction tutorial, hearing, or order. (TPL has reviewed the parallel litigation

1 dockets and find no reference to a claim construction proceeding, either before or after the date of  
 2 the *Sony* opinion. (See Fisher Decl., Ex. F.)

3 Notably, in its recent reconsideration of Mosaid's motion to transfer, this Court declined  
 4 to transfer an action to the Eastern District of Texas, reasoning that although significant discovery  
 5 and certain procedural issues had proceeded in the Micron action pending before Judge Folsom,  
 6 "the Texas court has not conducted a Markman hearing." *Micron Tech., Inc. v. Mosaid Techs.,*  
 7 *Inc.*, 5:06-cv-04496-JF, p. 3 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2008). It is also significant that the Texas  
 8 *Mosaid* actions were before different judges, i.e., Judges Davis and Folsom. Because there were  
 9 two different Texas judges, the issue of judicial economy in the context of judicial prior  
 10 experience was never before the Federal Circuit or this Court in the recent *Mosaid* motion to  
 11 transfer. Here, actions are presently pending before Judge Ward in the Eastern District of Texas  
 12 on the same patents and technology he recently considered.

13 Finally, even if this Court were to deny transfer with respect to the three patents which  
 14 Acer seeks Declaratory Judgment in its complaint, TPL has asserted two additional MMP patents  
 15 in the Texas action, specifically the '148 and '890 patents.<sup>5</sup> TPL was the first to file litigation  
 16 relating to these two additional patents and there is no guarantee that Judge Ward will transfer  
 17 these two patents to this Court, let alone dismiss the overlapping three. Simultaneous litigation in  
 18 two separate courts would, of course, result in duplication of judicial resources. *Cingular*  
 19 *Wireless LLC*, 2007 WL 1876377, at \*6 ("four lawsuits regarding the same patents . . . will result  
 20 in duplicative efforts, both by the courts and the litigants, if maintained in separate districts. The  
 21 certainty of wasted resources weighs strongly in favor of dismissal"); *EFI, Inc.*, 2008 WL  
 22 276567, at \*1 ("To permit a situation in which two cases involving precisely the same issues are  
 23 simultaneously pending in different District Courts leads to the wastefulness of time, energy and  
 24 money that § 1404(a) was designed to prevent") (quoting *Continental Grain Co. v. The FBL-585*,  
 25 364 U.S. 19, 26 (1960)).

26 <sup>5</sup> For the Court's convenience, TPL provides a chart summarizing which patents are at issue in the  
 27 Texas and California actions as well as which patents Judge Ward previously construed disputed  
 claim terms. (See Fisher Decl., Ex. G.)

28

1           Accordingly, it would be a duplication of effort for this Court to invest the time and  
 2 energy to learn the complex technology disclosed in the MMP patents when Judge Ward has  
 3 already done so and where Judge Ward may elect to retain jurisdiction over some or all of the five  
 4 asserted patents there.

5           **2. Transfer To The Eastern District Of Texas Is Necessary To Protect**  
 6 **Against Inconsistent Rulings.**

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7           As discussed in TPL's Motion, a *Markman* decision by this Court that departs from the  
 8 *Markman* decision issued by Judge Ward would provide inconsistent results and promote  
 9 confusion among third parties looking for clarification on the scope of the coverage of the MMP  
 10 patents.<sup>6</sup> In the event that both the California and Texas Courts retain jurisdiction over some or  
 11 all of the five asserted patents, there also remains a risk of inconsistent rulings. *Cingular*  
 12 *Wireless LLC.*, 2007 WL 1876377, at \*6 ("The opportunity for inconsistent judgments between  
 13 the four pending cases weighs on this Court, the risk of which favors discretionary dismissal").  
 14 Indeed, Acer itself recognizes the necessity of having only one judge as evidenced in their  
 15 Administrative Motion to Consider Whether Cases Should Be Related: "Having the actions  
 16 conducted before more than one judge would create an unduly burdensome duplication of labor  
 17 and expense and would present a substantial possibility of conflicting results on common legal  
 18 and factual issues." (See D.E. # 7 at p. 2, ll. 21-23.)

19           In its Opposition, Acer calls TPL's concern about inconsistency "fallacious." (Opp. at 6.)  
 20 Acer is wrong. Any difference in construction between two equally-situated courts would only  
 21 result in confusion, not clarity for future litigants. In fact, in a case involving almost identical

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 24           <sup>6</sup> In attempting to diminish the importance of Judge Ward's claims construction order and efforts  
 25 leading up to it, Acer contends that this Court is perfectly capable of reading Judge Ward's prior  
 26 order and that there is no guarantee that the same claim terms will be at issue in the *Markman*  
 27 hearing in this case. (Opp. at 6, 11.) Acer simply ignores that Judge Ward's claims construction  
 28 order construes 33 claim terms, many of which are common across the patents in the MMP  
 portfolio. Acer further ignores that regardless of the claim terms he ultimately construed, Judge  
 Ward undertook the extensive effort required to understand the complex microprocessor  
 technology described in the MMP patents. While TPL has no doubt that this Court would do  
 likewise, it would be a waste of judicial resources to require it to do so.

1 facts, Judge Davis of the Eastern District of Texas has held that “the special need for uniformity  
2 in patent cases strongly favors transfer.” *Logan v. Hormel Foods Corp.*, 2004 WL 5216126, at \*3  
3 (E.D. Tex. Aug. 25, 2004). In *Logan*, the court transferred a first-filed action despite recognizing  
4 that it would not be bound by a prior claim construction from another court and despite stating  
5 that it was “extremely reluctant to disturb a plaintiff’s venue choice.” *Id.* at \*3. The *Logan* court  
6 nonetheless transferred the action, stating: “Besides being a duplicative use of scarce judicial  
7 resources, a second claim construction would risk inconsistent claim constructions, create greater  
8 uncertainty regarding the patent’s scope, and impede the administration of justice.” *Id.* at \*2.

9 For these reasons, it would serve the interest of justice to transfer this case to Judge Ward  
10 to avoid duplicative, and potentially inconsistent, rulings.

**3. The Texas Court Has The Ability To Compel Attendance Of The Most Important Non-Party Witnesses.**

13 It is the convenience of non-party witnesses that is the more important factor and is  
14 accorded greater weight than the convenience of party witnesses. *See CoxCom, Inc. v. Hybrid*  
15 *Patents, Inc.*, 2007 WL 2500982, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. 2007).<sup>7</sup> “The availability of compulsory  
16 process to compel the attendance of unwilling witnesses is an important factor.” *Arete Power,*  
17 *Inc. v. Beacon Power Corp.*, 2008 WL 508477 \*1, 10 (N. D. Cal. Feb. 22, 2008) (citing  
18 *Cambridge Filter Corp. v. Int'l Filter Co., Inc.*, 548 F. Supp. 1308, 1311 (D. Nev. 1982)). Acer  
19 does not dispute the importance of compelling and providing convenience of attendance of third-  
20 party witnesses. Instead, Acer attempts to counter the fact that one of two inventors (Mr. Fish)  
21 resides in Texas by arguing that there is another third-party inventor, Charles H. Moore, residing

23 <sup>7</sup> Furthermore, it must be noted that since Acer is the plaintiff in the present action, having chosen  
24 the Northern District of California forum, it must bring all of its party witnesses to this forum for  
25 both deposition and trial. *See* 8A Wright, Miller & Marcus, FED. PRAC. & PROC.: CIV. 2D § 2112,  
26 at 75-76 (“Since plaintiff has selected the forum, he or she will not be heard to complain about  
27 having to appear there for a deposition.”). Acer should not be able to have it both ways, i.e.,  
argue now that this is the more convenient forum and later argue that it would be inconvenient for  
it to bring its party witnesses to Northern California for depositions and trial. In the event the  
Court retains jurisdiction, TPL requests that any order retaining jurisdiction in this forum also  
require that Acer’s employees must be produced for deposition and trial in this district.

1 in California and therefore within this Court's subpoena power. (D.E. #34, Opp. at 8-9.) Acer is  
 2 wrong. As discussed in TPL's Motion, Mr. Moore is a TPL consultant who is therefore available  
 3 to testify in either jurisdiction. Moreover, Mr. Moore resides in Nevada, not California.

4 Accordingly, the only identified third-party witness is Mr. Fish, who resides in Texas and  
 5 is therefore subject to the subpoena power of the Texas court. *Singleton v. Volkswagen of Am.,*  
 6 *Inc.*, 2006 WL 2634768, at \*3 (E.D. Tex. Sept. 12, 2006) (Ward, J.) ("this Court's subpoena  
 7 power extends to all of the witnesses listed by the Defendant because they all reside in the State  
 8 of Texas"). Acer's contention that Mr. Fish (who resides in Dallas) is not within the Eastern  
 9 District of Texas' subpoena power fails to consider the holding in the *Singleton* case, in which  
 10 Judge Ward expressly determined that the reach of his subpoena power extends to all residents in  
 11 the "State of Texas." Judge Ward will undoubtedly follow his own holding in *Singleton* if the  
 12 parties' dispute is litigated in Texas.

13 Accordingly, the Eastern District of Texas is able to compel the only third-party witness  
 14 identified by either party to attend trial, while this Court is not. As stated in both *Van Slyke* and  
 15 *Arete*, it is important for the non-affiliated inventor to be available for trial.

16 **B. The Private Factors Are Neutral.**

17 The district court must also consider private convenience and fairness factors, including  
 18 ease of access to sources of proof, plaintiff's choice of forum, relative convenience to parties, and  
 19 relative convenience to witnesses. *Decker Coal Co. v. Commonwealth Edison Co.*, 805 F.2d 834,  
 20 843 (9th Cir. 1986). Here, these factors are neutral.

21 **1. Plaintiffs' Choice of Forum Should Be Accorded No Weight.**

22 Ignoring the Federal Circuit's caution that "[t]he first-filed suit rule . . . will not always  
 23 yield the most convenient and suitable forum[,]” Acer nevertheless urges the Court to follow the  
 24 first-to-file “categorical rule[]” based on pre-*MedImmune* case law. *Micron*, 518 F.3d at 904. As  
 25 the *Micron* court counseled, however, “it is the real underlying dispute” that needs to be  
 26 considered. Here, the real dispute lies primarily with the decision-making declaratory-judgment  
 27 plaintiff, Acer, Inc. Acer America concedes that it is Acer, Inc. that directs and controls the  
 28 manufacture of the accused infringing products. (See Declaration of ACER America Corp. In

1 Support of Opposition to Motion to Dismiss (“Lee Decl.”) ¶ 4: “Acer Inc., through its supply  
 2 network of original design manufacturers (ODM) in Taiwan and China, has the computers and  
 3 computer products manufactured.”). Because the primary party in interest is Acer Inc., whose  
 4 residence is Taiwan, its choice of forum is entitled to little deference. *Piper Aircraft v. Reyno*,  
 5 454 U.S. 235, 236 (1981) (“The District Court properly decided that the presumption in favor of  
 6 the plaintiff’s forum choice applied with less than maximum force when the plaintiff or (as here)  
 7 the real parties in interest are foreign . . . when the plaintiff or real parties in interest are foreign,  
 8 this assumption is much less reasonable and the plaintiff’s choice deserves less deference.”).

9

10 **2. Both Forums Are Equally Convenient To Plaintiffs’ Parties And  
 Witnesses.**

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11 In its Motion, TPL stated that it believed that Acer’s technical fact witnesses reside  
 12 outside the United States. (D.E. # 19, Motion to Dismiss and To Transfer (“Motion”) at 12.)  
 13 Nowhere in its Opposition does Acer contend to the contrary. Rather, Acer’s supporting  
 14 declarations are telling in what they omit rather than what they state.<sup>8</sup> Despite TPL’s contentions  
 15 that Acer’s technical fact witnesses reside in Taiwan or China, Acer neither refutes nor clarifies  
 16 where its technical fact witnesses reside. As noted above, Acer America does concede, however,  
 17 that Acer, Inc. directs the manufacture of the accused products in either Taiwan or China. (See  
 18 Lee Decl. ¶ 4.)

19 The only California witnesses that Acer identifies could only testify about the prior  
 20 licensing negotiations between the parties, but Acer fails to explain how this testimony will be  
 21 relevant at trial. Even the Gateway declaration, signed by the Senior Director of Engineering, is  
 22 executed in North Sioux City, South Dakota, indicating that whatever engineering and  
 23 manufacturing function Gateway maintains in the United States does not occur in California.

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25 <sup>8</sup> For example, Acer’s inclusion of only its California sales without providing any estimate of its  
 26 Texas sales is highly suspect. Indeed, Acer makes no attempt to dispute that it sells products in  
 27 Texas as TPL addressed in its Motion or that those sales are also significant. (See D.E. #19,  
 Motion at 12.) By only including Plaintiffs’ California sales in its supporting declarations, Acer  
 cannot tilt the transfer balance in favor of California.

28

Finally, it is disingenuous for Acer to complain that it would be inconvenient for its Taiwanese and other witnesses to travel to Texas. The fact is that Plaintiffs are large corporations that are accustomed to having to travel for litigation, having themselves recently initiated litigation in the Eastern District of Texas. *Indeed, within the 12 months preceding their initiation of this action, Acer and Acer America filed complaints in both the Eastern District of Texas as well as the Western District of Wisconsin.* (See Fisher Decl., Exs. H, I.) Accordingly, the convenience of the party witnesses factor remains neutral.

### 3. Both Forums Provide Equal Ease Of Access To Proof.

9       Despite Acer’s protestations that the majority of its documents reside in California, this  
10 factor remains neutral. “With technological advances in document storage and retrieval,  
11 transporting documents does not generally create a burden.” *Van Slyke v. Capital One Bank*, 503  
12 F. Supp. 2d 1353, 1364 (N.D. Cal. 2007); *LG Elecs., Inc.*, 2007 WL 4411035, at \*5  
13 (“documentary evidence is routinely transmitted electronically”).

\* \* \* \*

15 In summary, the public factors – most notably judicial economy, the risk of inconsistent  
16 judgments and third-party witness convenience – clearly outweigh any private factors that might  
17 favor maintaining this action in the Northern District of California. The parties' disputes should  
18 therefore be litigated in the Eastern District of Texas.

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1     **III. CONCLUSION**

2           In light of the significant resources that have already been expended relating to the MMP  
 3    patents by Judge Ward in the Eastern District of Texas and to avoid the risk of inconsistent  
 4    rulings, this Court should grant TPL's Motion and dismiss and/or transfer this case to the Eastern  
 5    District of Texas.

6   Dated: July 18, 2008

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12   Dated: July 18, 2008

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